

REMARKS

Claims 14, 17, 22 and 24 have been amended. No new claims have been added. Claims 1-13 were previously canceled and no claims are canceled herein. Accordingly, claims 14-26 remain under prosecution in this application.

Claim Objections

Claims 14 and 22 have been rejected because the phrases “driving behavior” in claim 14 and “vehicle movement behavior” in claim 22 lack antecedent basis. Both claim 14 and 22 have been amended to introduce these respective phrases using the indefinite article “a” and accordingly the undersigned believes that the claim objections are now overcome.

35 USC §103

Claims 14, 16, 21 and 22 are rejected under 35 USC §103 as being unpatentable over Latarnik in view of Parker. In the prior office action (paper no. 9) the Examiner rejected claim 15 based on Latarnik, column 3, lines 47-62. In rebuttal of that rejection, the undersigned stated in his response thereto (paper no. 10) that “the undersigned has closely reviewed Latarnik including column 3, lines 47-62 and cannot find any reference to standardizing signals to at least one nominal value *when the driving behavior is stationary*. The undersigned believes that a close review of this section of Latarnik does teach calculation of nominal preset values; however, nowhere does it teach calculating nominal preset values *when the driving behavior is stationary*.” In the most recent office action (mailed November 20, 2003), the Examiner has maintained his rejection of claim 15 (which in paper no. 10 was combined with claim 14 and now resides therein), but instead of relying on Latarnik, column 3, lines 47-62, the Examiner is now relying on Latarnik, column 4, lines 1-11. The undersigned respectfully submits that Latarnik, column 4, lines 1-11 is no more relevant to the rejection of the claims of record than is Latarnik, column 3, lines 27-62. Specifically, claim 14 requires 3 specific method steps: 1) that a sensor be operated under known conditions of minimal lateral forces, 2) that the signal generated by the sensor under the conditions of step 1 be used as a reference value to determine the presence of a transverse force on the wheel, and 3) that the measured signal be standardized to at least one nominal value when a driving behavior is stationary. The undersigned

respectfully submits that Latarnik, in no way, teaches any of these three steps. Specifically, although Latarnik does refer to a nominal value (nominal yaw moment M_G), it does not describe how this nominal value is derived but rather it simply describes how the nominal value is used "The said nominal yaw moment M_G to be applied is then converted in a wheel force distributor 6 into wheel forces F to be applied to the individual wheels." Neither claim 14 nor claim 26 is directed to the use of the nominal value but rather to the method in which it is derived. For this reason alone, the undersigned believes that claim 14, and its dependent claims, are now in condition for allowance.

Claim 22 has been rejected on the same general basis as claim 14. The same arguments made in defense of the patentability of claim 14 also apply to claim 22 and accordingly, the undersigned believes that claim 22 and its dependent claims are now in condition for allowance.

In view of the above, each of the presently pending claims in this application is believed to be in immediate condition for allowance. Accordingly, the Examiner is respectfully requested to pass this application to issue.

Applicant believes no fee is due with this response. However, if a fee is due, please charge our Deposit Account No. 18-0013, under Order No. AP9714 from which the undersigned is authorized to draw.

Dated: February 19, 2004

Respectfully submitted,

By 

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